



BOB HIX  
 Regional Wildlife Director  
 2024 South Idalia Street  
 Aurora, CO 80013  
 Ph/Fax: (303) 743-8957  
 bhix@pheasantsforever.org

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Bob Hix. I am the Regional Representative for Pheasants Forever for Colorado and live in Aurora, Colorado. I am a Colorado Native and was raised in Littleton. My love of the outdoors comes from my father who introduced me into the world of conservation, fishing and hunting at a young age. I am an avid outdoorsman and I love to fish and hunt, my biggest passion in hunting is for Pheasants with my three German Shorthaired Pointers. Pheasants Forever is a diversified group of hunters, non-hunters, farmers, ranchers, landowners, conservation enthusiasts and wildlife officials.

We make a difference for Pheasants and other wildlife by creating habitat, restoring wetlands and protecting prairies. Nationwide we have 135,000 members of which 4600 reside in Colorado and belong to 15 local chapters throughout the state. On average we complete over 20,000 habitat projects each year in the US and more than 250 habitat projects in Colorado in 2012. Since inception in 1982 we have benefited over 8.5 million acres across the US and over 600,000 acres in Colorado. While our major focus is in protecting habitat for pheasants and quail, these same habitats support other game, small and large, as well as waterfowl and non game species.

Pheasants Forever has a strong partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. We have three Private Lands Biologists we share with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. We work closely with the Private Lands Programs, Pheasants Habitat Improvement Program, Small Game Walk In Access Program and Hunter Outreach Program with the CPW.

We are here today in full support of renewal of the Habitat Stamp act, SB13-175. During the past year alone due to changes in the Farm Bill we have lost over 100,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program acreage in Colorado. The current high prices for agricultural commodities and anticipated future changes in funding for Farm Bill conservation programs do not bode well for critical nesting and escape cover habitat for small game and other species. This Habitat Stamp program is one small way for preserving for future generations of sportsmen in Colorado the wildlife opportunities that all citizens of Colorado are so privileged to enjoy. The bill is a great one, continuing the program while eliminating unused portions of the past bill. We ask for your support in moving it forward unamended.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions now or at the end of the testimony of my other sportsmen colleagues.